



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

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August 19, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**APPROVE REVISED PLANS OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND
RECREATION TO FUND ITS BRAILLE TRAIL AND RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION
PROJECTS AT PLACERITA CANYON
(FIFTH DISTRICT)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Department of Parks and Recreation to utilize \$328,500 in unspent Specified Funds of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992 to fund the proposed Braille Trail and Riparian Habitat Restoration Projects at Placerita Canyon.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed Braille Trail and Riparian Habitat Restoration Projects are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, for the reasons cited herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the projects.
2. Approve a revised plan of expenditure for the Department of Parks and Recreation to fund its proposed Braille Trail Project by reallocating \$28,500 in Specified Funds, originally allocated to the Department of Parks and Recreation in Section (8), Subsection (a), Paragraph (2), Subparagraph (GG) pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992.
3. Approve a revised plan of expenditure for the Department of Parks and Recreation to fund its proposed Riparian Habitat Restoration Project by reallocating \$300,000 in Specified Funds, originally allocated to the Department of Parks and Recreation in Section (8), Subsection (a), Paragraph (2),

and Subparagraphs (GG), (O), (X), (Y), and (Z) pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992.

4. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as the Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award grants in the amount of \$328,500 for the proposed Braille Trail and Riparian Habitat Restoration Projects at Placerita Canyon; and, if applicable conditions have been met, to administer the grants as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise funds shall remain in the unspent 1992 Proposition A Specified Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will reallocate \$328,500 in unspent 1992 Proposition A Specified Funds, which was originally allocated to the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) in Section (8), Subsection (a), Paragraph (2), and Subparagraphs (GG), (O), (X), (Y), and (Z) pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992 (1992 Proposition), for the Department to fund its proposed Braille Trail and Riparian Habitat Restoration Projects at Placerita Canyon.

Braille Trail Project:

Approval of the proposed project will develop a portion of the existing Heritage trail into Braille Trail by relocating the trail entrance area, create Braille and interpretive signage, install safety railing, and create a panoramic relief of the natural area and miniature sculpture of the Oak of the Golden Dream. The total project cost is estimated at \$99,000. The recommended \$28,500 of unspent 1992 Proposition A Specified Funds will be supplemented with \$45,000 of Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) and \$25,500 of Department In-kind Labor.

Riparian Habitat Restoration Project:

Approval of the proposed project will restore and preserve riparian habitat along Placerita Creek by installing two bridges that will raise Placerita Canyon Trail out of Placerita Creek at two locations, creating buffer zones between the Placerita Canyon Trail and riparian habitat with shoring walls, and planting native plants along Placerita Creek. The total project cost is estimated at \$555,000. The recommended \$300,000 unspent 1992 Proposition A Specified Funds will be supplemented with \$200,000 of HCF and \$55,000 of Department In-kind Labor.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by improving and enhancing recreational activities at Placerita Canyon.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants, in the amount of \$328,500, is budgeted in the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's Assessment Project Fund (HB4) under Other Charges.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1992 Proposition set forth various deadlines for agencies to encumber funds allocated to them in the 1992 Proposition, and further set forth procedures for agencies to request reallocation of those funds, as follows:

The 1992 Proposition provided funding for projects that were specified in the measure and identified a procedure for revision of those projects prior to July 1, 1998. That procedure remains the method by which specified project funds may be approved by your Board for other uses. An agency may submit a revised plan of expenditure to use the funds for a project that is consistent with the purposes of the 1992 Proposition.

On June 2, 2009, your Board approved the Procedural Guide to govern the administration of Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grants as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The Department is the lead agency for the proposed projects.

The proposed Braille Trail Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The project, which consists of developing a portion of the existing Heritage trail into the Braille Trail by relocating the trail entrance area, creating Braille and interpretive signage, installing safety railing, and creating a panoramic relief of the natural area and miniature sculpture of the Oak of the Golden Dream, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15303(e), 15304(a) and 15311(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Classes 3(b), 4(a) and 11(d) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project involves construction of small new facilities or structures, minor alterations in the condition of land, and installation of on-premise signs.

The proposed project above will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees. Additionally, the proposed project is not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed project's records.

The Riparian Habitat Restoration Project consists of installing two bridges that will raise Placerita Canyon Trail out of Placerita Creek at two locations, creating buffer zones between the Trail and riparian habitat with shoring walls, and planting native plants along Placerita Creek. The proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA according to Sections 15301(c),(d) and 15333(a),(b),(c), (d-3,-4,-5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Class 1 (f) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project involves minor alteration to existing public facilities and topography features and small habitat restoration projects.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Grant Project Agreements will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

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Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009, when all applicable conditions of the grants have been met. The Project Agreements will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by RPOSD, but are required so that the Department may utilize the unspent grant funds on the proposed projects.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:WRO:sc

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Chief Executive Office